

PROBING THE BRIDGE

October 2025

Private and confidential for Probus use only



Combined Probus Club of
Northbridge Inc

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From the President

Well “the rain did go away” leaving us to be spoiled with special sunny days. Many of our dedicated gardeners would have enjoyed producing beautiful spring flowers with magnificent colour displays. Talking of magnificent flower and garden displays, did you notice the display around the entrance to our Northbridge Golf Club? Our member Lesley Berry, who gave us the very interesting five-minute talk on “forensics”, is responsible for its creation and care. And of course to further admire garden displays at this time Marlene had organised on September 19 a busload of our members to visit the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden at Terrey Hills.

Our September meeting was again very well patronised. Speaker Ian Thompson entertained with his insight into Australian inventions taking us back to “Mortiein” and “Louie the Fly” This month at our October meeting we are looking forward to David Short who will speak about the Royal Flying Doctor Service which was created by John Flynn, with its first flight out of Cloncurry, Queensland on May 15, 1928. Also Malcolm has secured for the November meeting Jim Haynes who will talk on “memories of a baby boomer”. This will be a bit of fun with a laugh or two to complete the year.

I expect there was plenty of fun and friendship with the member group tour to Broken Hill from October 6 to 13. Carol organised their flight there with five days for exploring including a night at the underground hotel at White Cliffs and then return by train.

Peter has been busy this month. He attended the Probus Open Day at Mosman organised by the District Cluster group coordinated by Bev Carlyon from the Waverton club. (See back page.) Peter reported he was the Meet and Greet man. The aim was to attract more members to the various Probus clubs in the district. Northbridge has a full membership so didn't set up a separate club table. It was a very successful day - 120 visitors with member potential. Peter commented that he was surprised that in general there is very little awareness of Probus. Peter's \$2.50 club visited Woy Woy on October 16.

Are there any suggestions for other activities you would like to be offered? Perhaps you would like to become a committee member - please let us know.

“Member detail privacy” has been considered. Please be assured as Ros explained at the September meeting that although the committee has full access to your information, no member detail would be passed onto a third-party unless the member has given permission at that point of time.

I have been told that to produce a super chocolate cake from a packet mix just add mayonnaise and chocolate chips. I haven't tried it yet but I might allow the grandkids to be the judges.

President Bev

Our next meeting will be held at Northbridge Golf Club on Monday, October 20 starting at 10am sharp. If you can't attend, please phone or text Judy Smith 0422 537 044 before the meeting. The following meeting will be on November 17.



Top row: Dawn Spinks reported: Twenty of us had a very happy day when we went to the Theatre Royal to see 'Here You Come Again'. Even a delay of one hour before the show started did not deter us – most of us found a lovely rooftop bar where we drank a glass of bubbles and got to know each other better.

Centre, left: A cheerful group met at Inner Cravings for coffee on the Labour Day holiday.

Above: A wander through the bush at Ku-ring-ai Wildflower Garden before scones for morning tea.

Right, above: Our guide, Mark, played the didgeridoo while we enjoyed the tranquil bush surroundings.

Right, centre: A red Grevillea. **Far right:** This bearded desert lizard has been tamed.



Our speakers

Our speaker in October is **David Short** (pictured), talking about that famous Australian institution, the Royal Flying Doctor Service. David has a background in public education and in the university sector. He holds degrees in Arts, Education and Law. He has awards for excellence in education and currently undertakes volunteer work with RFDS.

In November, we will hear the well-known entertainer, storyteller and radio personality **Jim Haynes OAM**, talking on the subject “Memories of a baby boomer”.

In January 2026, **Sue Williams**, writer of historical fiction about Colonial Australia, will be talking on “Power, passion and pride in a new land”.

Dates for your diary

Online payments to Probus Tours Account, BSB 062 215, A/C 10073196, please. If paying for an activity online, don't forget to register at the desk that you will be attending, as well as identifying yourself with your online payment.

Wednesday, October 22

Back to the Future, Lyric Theatre 1pm

Twenty tickets all taken and paid for. The bus will leave Northbridge Golf Club promptly at 11am which will give us time to have something to eat before the performance. We will return to the Golf Club around 4pm.

Friday, October 31

Lunch at Forestville RSL

Meet in the foyer of the Forestville RSL Club at 12 noon for a walk along the Anzac Memorial Pathway (a flat walk about 15 minutes) with its lovely plaques commemorating WW1 and WW 11, then we'll go back for lunch at the RSL. Drive yourself there; there is plenty of parking at the rear of the RSL. The club's address is 22 Melwood Avenue, Forestville.

Monday, November 3

Coffee Catch-up, Inner Cravings, Northbridge Plaza, 2.30pm

Come along on the first Monday of the month for coffee and a chat with other club members. It's a good chance to meet other members. No need to book – just turn up. Hosted by Kerrie Williams.

Thursday, November 6

Just Lunch, Chill Vietnamese Restaurant 52 Willoughby Rd, Crows Nest, 12 noon

\$45 for four dishes. Please pay and order your dishes at our October meeting.

Tuesday, November 11

Naval Historical Society Harbour Cruise

We will leave the Golf Club at 8.30am. This tour is full, with a waiting list, so all payments need to be made at the October meeting. If your name is on the list but you are not coming, it is important to let Marlene know so others can come. Any overflow may have to come in by cars. Cost of \$90 includes cruise, coach and morning tea.



Monday, December 1

Christmas lunch at Northbridge Golf Club, 12 noon, \$80

Names are now being taken.

Wednesday, December 3

The Nutcracker, State Theatre, 7pm

All tickets have been taken and paid for. There is no transport for this performance – everyone is to make their own way to and from the theatre. Dawn will be outside from 6.30pm with tickets for everyone.

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Lunch at Infuzions Restaurant, Cammeray

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Anastasia, Sydney Lyric Theatre, 1pm

Cost of \$110 includes bus transport to and from the theatre from Northbridge Golf Club. There are four tickets remaining for this performance – payment at this stage can be made by direct transfer into the Probus Tours Account.

Clubs that cluster

Earlier this year, ten Probus clubs on the Lower North Shore (Cremorne, Crows Nest, Lane Cove, Middle Harbour, Mosman, Neutral Bay (a men's club), Northbridge, North Sydney, Waverton and Wollstonecraft) got together to form a "Cluster Group". The aim was to share information and ideas between clubs and to cooperate to increase membership through improved programs and activities. Already, our club has benefitted from the cluster, especially in newsletter ideas and content, and in exchanging contacts and commentary on potential guest speakers. Past President **Peter McNair** is our representative on the cluster, which meets monthly. He reports each month to our club's Committee.

Some of the clubs in the cluster are struggling for membership and our club does not always participate in programs to promote membership because we already have a waiting list and plenty of interested visitors. However, on October 1 Peter attended the cluster's Open Day which was held at the Mosman Art Gallery, hosted by the majority of the ten Probus clubs.

Peter reported: "The event showcased the various Probus clubs, primarily to obtain new members for those clubs who are actively aiming to increase their membership. Some 120 people attended to learn about Probus and ask questions of the Probus members attending the seven club tables. A representative from each table, plus myself representing Combined Probus Club of Northbridge, gave a brief overview of their club's activities. Subsequently, most of the visitors registered their names with a particular club of their choice. The day was judged a great success".

Thanks to Peter McNair

Stop scammers in their tracks

Scammers often get creative with their tricks and not all remote access scams are the same. However, there are some steps you can take to stop even the craftiest communicators.



- **Stop if it's unsolicited.** Has someone asked for access to your device out of the blue? It's simple: stop there.
- **Pause if you see a pop-up.** Did you receive an unexpected notification on your device, pressuring you to download software? When in doubt, don't download.
- **Don't share your details.** Never give your personal or banking details away over the phone if you didn't make the call. Even then, make sure it's a legitimate service provider or store that you know and trust.
- **Check to protect.** Independently verify any calls or notifications you have received about your device and its security, using professionals and contact information you trust and have sourced yourself.

Information from Macquarie Bank



Time for lunch

A group of men, all aged around 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch. They agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the waitresses there were gorgeous. Ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. They agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the food and service were good and the wine selection was excellent. Ten years later, at age 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch. They agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they could dine in peace and quiet and the restaurant had a beautiful view of the ocean. Ten years later, at age 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. They agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had an elevator. Ten years later, at age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. They agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they had never been there before.

Check out the book table for books and jigsaw puzzles!